

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

12. (New) A method of protecting submerged structures from damage due to adhesion and multiplication by harmful organisms living in the water in seawater or in industrial water systems, comprising the step of applying biocide-free antifouling agent comprising mineral fibers or filaments and E glass fibers with a SiO₂ rate of more than 50% by weight, in the form of a textile fabric, whereby the surface of the antifouling agent is formed predominantly by fine basalt fibers and the fabric is designed as interlaid scrim, woven fabric, knitted fabrics or braiding, a fabric designed by the multiaxial technique or a fleece.

13. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the fabric is a fishing net which is placed on the substrate to be protected or on underwater surfaces to be protected.

14. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the fishing net is a knotless, warp-knitted fishing net suitable for aquaculture or an antifouling coating.

15. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the textile fabric is applied by means of adhesives or other chemically adhesive products to the substrate or to the underwater surface to be protected, or the textile fabric is applied to the substrate to be protected or to the underwater surface by sheathing with tightly woven fabrics or strips or by braiding.

16. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the basalt fibers or basalt filaments are used as mineral fibers or filaments.

17. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the textile fabric has edge protection along its edges.

18. (New) The method of claim 12, whereby the woven fabric comprises warp and weft threads, in each case basalt fibers.

19. (New) The method of claim 12, whereby roving and yarns with a fineness of 50 to 3000 tex, are used for the woven fabric and the woven fabrics produced from the yarns have a surface weight of 70 to 1500g/m².

20. (New) The method of claim 19, whereby roving and yarns with a fineness of 50 to 500 tex, are used for the woven fabric.

21. (New) The method of claim 19, whereby the woven fabrics produced from the yarns have a surface weight of 90 to 200g/m².

22. (New) The method of claim 12, whereby the woven fabric comprises several coats or layers and is fastened mechanically in terms of weaving technology with quilting seams, whereby the quilting seams are executed using a sewing cotton.

23. (New) The method of claim 12, whereby the layers of the textile fabric are connected to one another by means of adhesion technology.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the layers of the textile fabric are connected to one another by means of welding adhesive tape and/or by means of adhesive powder.

25. (New) The method of claim 12, whereby the textile fabric material comprises yarns or multiyarns.

26. (New) The method of claim 12, whereby the textile fabric, prior to use as an antifouling agent, is subjected to a texturing process.